

system every cotton dealer full appreciates. In fact, Mr. Edward Atkinson, one of our highest American authorities on cotton subjects, is on record as declaring cotton to be "the most barbarously handled commercial product in the world." Besides the lack of uniformity in size, gins at present are able to pack cotton at the average density of only fourteen pounds per cubic foot. Every bale not sold to local mills therefore must be sent to some cotton compress and the size reduced two-thirds before it can be exported.

The round-lap cylindrical bale introduced a few years ago was hailed by many as filling the long-felt want for a better system, but the beginning of the end came a few days ago (September 7, 1904) when the company was thrown into the hands of a receiver, with liabilities much in excess of the assets. The round bale failed partly because the world had been too long accustomed to the square form to take kindly to a change; partly because round bales do not pack so compactly as square bales, just as logs require more space than plank; and partly because the company which owned the round bale presses threatened a monopoly, only leasing its machinery and refusing to sell on any terms.

Just now another baling system—the Whitman—is coming into prominence, but not enough is known of it as yet to justify a final word as to its merits. Its promoters, one of whom is Daniel J. Sully, the famous cotton bull of 1903—claim that it packs cotton at the gin to such density as to do away with the necessity for recompressing. This company, too, proposes to sell its machinery outright, thus avoiding the fatal blunder of the round-lap promoters.

#### Marketing and Exporting the Crop.

In marketing the cotton crop, there has been in recent years a marvelous gain in directness and economy. Formerly the farmer sold to his merchant at the county seat; the merchant at the county seat sold to the commission merchant at the State capital; the commission merchant sold to the dealer at the seaport; the seaport dealer sold to the New York exporter; the New York exporter sold to Liverpool, and Liverpool sold to Manchester. Now all this is changed—how greatly changed will be seen from the report of a cotton exporting house which handles more than 300,000 bales each season. "The cotton is now bought on the plantations or at the railway stations throughout the whole Cotton Belt by the representatives of large exporting houses and by the mills," said the manager of this export house to me the other day. "Our firm employs more than 100 buyers for this purpose, and the cotton is shipped daily to the port where it is expeditiously sampled, classified, weighed, compressed and loaded upon ships for foreign ports with almost incredible swiftness. We have had a train loaded with cotton fifty miles from port at 7 a. m., and at 7 p. m. of the same day it has been stowed on board a foreign ship and bills of exchange drawn and negotiated!"

#### The Warehouse System.

Just now a great deal is being said in the newspapers about the proposed warehousing system of the Southern Cotton Corporation. Undoubtedly the custom of rushing the cotton on the market during the three or four months of the picking season has a tendency to depress prices, and undoubtedly a system of gradual marketing through a period of ten months would do much to avoid the wild fluctuations now prevailing; but whether or not the farmers will look with favor on the great Sully warehousing scheme remains to be seen. Even if the warehousing system does not become general, however, cotton growers are likely to break away very rapidly from the old plan of selling cotton as fast as harvested. In the first place, every "lien farmer", every farmer with a mortgaged crop, has had to put his cotton on the market immediately, this class, as has been

said, is now rapidly decreasing. Then, too, other farmers, hard pressed by adversity in the period of low prices, were unable to hold their product, even if confident of a rising market later on. With better prices therefore inevitably comes greater freedom and more gradual marketing.

#### Wastes in Cotton Growing.

There are yet many wastes in cotton growing. One waste which went on for a full century and has not yet been completely redeemed, was the waste of cotton seed. For most of the last hundred years the farmers have realized only \$5,000,000 from their cotton seed; now they receive \$100,000,000. Another waste is in the reckless use of commercial fertilizers, and another the even more reckless selection of seed for planting. Still another waste, likely to have attention now, is the total loss of unopened bolls; by threshing these in parts of Texas last year nearly \$2,000,000 was added to the value of the Lone Star crop. If it is possible to invent an effective cotton-picker, then it is fair to assume that we are wasting \$50,000,000 yearly in depending on hand-labor for this work. Millions, too, are wasted by the use of inefficient tools, and millions more through unwise methods of cultivation and failure to rotate crops. The cotton boll weevil also threatens a loss of hundreds of millions if not checked. Lastly, we are still shipping 60 per cent of our cotton to Europe—almost as uneconomic, as has been said, as it would be to ship our iron ore instead of turning it into the finished product here.

#### The Golden Era Ahead of the South.

I cannot better conclude this article than by quoting an extract from an address by Mr. Richard H. Edmonds, of the Manufacturer's Record, delivered in New York City, a few months ago—not a mere day dream, a flight of fancy, but a prediction of what actually bids fair to come to pass within the life time of most of those who read this article:

"It is not to be expected that the South ever will manufacture its entire cotton production, for, when it has reached the point where it consumes in its own mills the 10,500,000 bales which now measure its average crop, the world will be demanding of it, and it will meet the world's demands, probably 20,000,000 bales. But the utilization in its own mills of 10,000,000 bales would mean the employment of 1,000,000 operatives, the investment in mills and textile machinery of not less than \$2,000,000,000, and the annual output would be worth \$20,000,000,000.

"Then, indeed, would the South, without monopolizing the world's cotton manufacturing interests, be the dominant factor, the center of the world's cotton mill business, producing 20,000,000 bales and consuming at home in its own mills 10,000,000 bales.

"Both will come about in due time. The South sees before it this prize, rich beyond words to describe, creating wealth beyond anything which this section or any other section has known, and this is the prize—a prize great enough to enrich an empire—for which it has entered the race. That it will admit of no question."

#### A LAST WORD.

Already the number of new readers obtained for The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant under the terms of our special short-term subscription offer has passed the 2,000 mark, and we expect to get within sight of the 3,000 mark before the contest closes.

For there are yet three days of grace. And only three.

Positively the offer will be withdrawn after November 10th. That is to say, every person wishing to subscribe under the terms of this offer must get his order in the postoffice before midnight of November 10th.

But much can be done in three days. You, for example, Mr. Subscriber—you could see a half

dozen of your neighbors easily, get six 10-cent subscriptions, and get the date on your label moved up six months free. It's a last chance—and won't you do it?

But we are about to forget election day—today. You can see all your neighbors there. And remember we give a prize of \$2.50 for the largest list sent in marked "Election Day Club" and \$2.50 for the largest list sent between November 1st and November 10th not so marked.

It's a last call, but we still hope you will at least send a club of six.

#### THIS WEEK'S FEATURES.

**MARKET COTTON SLOWLY.**—The letter by President Harvie Jordan deserves the attention of cotton growers everywhere. Read his reasons for warning against hasty marketing of the rest of the crop.

**FARM WORK STOCK: CARE AND FEEDING.**—It is not too high praise to say that this is one of the most valuable articles ever printed in this paper. Every farmer has a horse to feed, and every horse feeder can profit by Dr. Butler's advice.

**NATURE STUDY FOR NOVEMBER.**—The second of a series of articles by Dr. Stevens which should be brought to the attention of every country school teacher. See that your teacher reads them.

**AN EDUCATIONAL OBJECT LESSON.**—"Things seen are mightier than things heard," and these illustrations, with Prof. Joyner's explanation, should bring other communities to consolidation and local taxation.

**THE RICH KINGDOM OF COTTON.**—As this article, written by request of Editor Page for the November World's Work, is the result of much greater research and labor than are our ordinary editorials, no apology is needed for its use in preference to more hurriedly-prepared matter.

In mailing statements to subscribers last week, a number of reminders intended for subscribers whose term expired on a certain date, were accidentally sent to subscribers who were paid to a later date. We sincerely regret the mistake. Look at the date on your label. That shows the time your subscription expired or will expire. And if it has expired, please let us have your renewal now, without waiting to be asked again.

#### A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

I can think of nothing to fill my time with, and so, without any constraint, I read the Life of Brant. It is a very extravagant compliment to a pay to Brant, or to General Schuyler, or to General Washington. My time should be as good as theirs: my world, my facts, all my net relations as good as theirs, or either of theirs. But let me do my work so well that other ideas, if they choose, may compare my texture with the texture of these and find it identical with the best. Let us, if we must have great actions, make our own so.—From Emerson's Essay on "Spiritual Laws."

#### Kindle Your Fires.

Kindle your fires, for the north is here!  
Bear logs into the hall!  
Let glowing embers lend their cheer  
Of food and raiment goodly store,  
Lie under winter's pall.

In the ruddy shimmer of its light,  
Gather about the board.  
In childish games or sober plight,  
Or lover-wise, woo miser night,  
To share with thee his hoard!

And here's to all the wide world, over  
A well-filled butt and bin,  
Of food and raiment goodly store.  
And love's calm hand, when wild winds roar  
With the winter coming in!  
—John Charles McNeill in Charlotte Observer.